GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:77
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
CONVERSION OF ONE THIRD LAND INTO FOREST LAND
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN;RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri A.K. Mukharjee to give necessary suggestions regarding the conversion of one third portion of the total land area into forest area;

(b) if so, whether the said committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government so far towards the implementation of the report?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) No Sir. However, a Committee was set up of which Shri A.K.Mukherjee was a member, to develop an implementable plan for bringing 1/3rd of the country`s geographical area under forest/tree cover.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The recommendations of the Committee include institutional restructuring along with policy and legal reforms, involvement of communities in forest management, balanced development of forestry enterprises, support services, incentive systems and improved management practices. The Committee has also recommended an integrated approach for the overall development of forests and plantations by pooling resources from all the sources.

(d) The Working Group on Forestry for 10th Plan constituted by Planning Commission has formulated strategies for afforestation and regeneration of degraded lands, to increase forest/tree cover outside forest areas, to strengthen peoples participation in forestry activities, creation of Forest Development Agencies, infrastructure development etc.